Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2003

The Honorable Dennis Hastert Speaker U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We are writing to emphasize our strong support for legislative action—as soon as possible—to stabilize the Medicare program for the millions of seniors who rely on it for their health care needs.

We are seriously concerned that many Medicare beneficiaries in our districts are losing access to vitally important health care services due to the inadequacy of current Medicare payment rates. As a result of payment reductions and inadequate reimbursements, many beneficiaries have lost—or are at risk of losing access to their physicians, hospitals, Medicare+Choice plans, nursing homes, home health services and other providers on whom they rely for care. To ensure that our elderly and disabled constituents do not experience further disruptions, Congress must take immediate action to address this urgent crisis now that the 108th Congress has convened.

This issue demands bipartisan action and a comprehensive solution. We urge you to assign a high priority to stabilizing the Medicare program for both beneficiaries and providers. Thank you for considering our views on this important issue for our nation's seniors.

Sincerely,

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